AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 19, paragraph 71:

[0071] The illustrated code image preparation method 600 then continues by comparing 612 the levels in the new code image 316 to levels currently in, for example, the flash memory devices 304. In one embodiment, the image bridge module 322 then determines 614 if the flash memory device 304 needs to be updated and, if so, updates 616 the flash memory device 304. Updating 616 the flash memory device 304 is discussed in more detail with reference to Figure 7. In a further embodiment, the image bridge module 322 also may determine if any PLAs 306 or other hardware components within the host adapter 300 need to be updated. In a further embodiment, the image bridge module 322 also may reconcile any incompatibilities between the old code image 314 and the new code image 316.

Page 22, paragraph 0079:

[0079] The code image initialization method 900 then determines 906 if a fastload key exists to signify that a fastload code update was performed. In one embodiment, if the fastload key module 328 finds a proper fastload key 508 in the new code image 316, the fastload adapter initialization module 332 executes 910 a fastload initialization sequence. Otherwise, the standard initialization module 330 may implement 908 a conventional initialization sequence that may require more time than the fastload initialization sequence. After either the fastload or the standard initialization sequence is completed, the host bus adapter 300 "turns on the light" 912 and resumes processing I/O requests once again.

Pages 22-23, paragraph 81:

[0081] Using a fastload code update and initialization sequence, the host adapter 300 may continue processing I/O throughout most of the foregoing process. In one embodiment, for example, the total time that the host adapter 300 is off-line may be approximately 2-3 seconds, including approximately 1 second during which the light is "off." When the light "turns off" 904, the host 212 will see a state change and will log back in. The host 212 will be able to log back in prior to exhausting any timeout period because the host adapter 300 is only off-line for what may appear to be a "tolerable glitch," rather than for over two minutes using conventional techniques. In a further embodiment, it may be unnecessary to "turn off" 904 the light during the code image initialization method 900, depending on the specific topology of the communication system 200 and the protocol employed by the host adapter 300. <u>Subsequently, the code image initialization method 900 ends 914.</u>

Amendments to the Claims:

None